

The Story that Makes Sense of Everything
Part 4 of 5
Sunday, May 10th, 2020
The Beauty of Love

LEADER NOTES

Hi LifeGroup leaders! Welcome to part 4 of our 5 week series, The Story that Makes Sense of Everything.” In this series we are exploring the metanarrative (overarching story) of the Bible. As we understand God’s story we are better able to make sense of our own story and how we fit with His amazing plan. The title of this week’s session is “The Beauty of Love”. What is God like? Why should I trust Him? Why should I want Jesus to be my king? A key place to answer these questions is the cross. At the cross we learn that God is sacrificial, selfless love. As we consider what Jesus has done for us on the cross, we can be awed by the beauty of God’s love and drawn to fully receive that love. God’s desire for us as His image bearers is to reflect the same love we see modelled for us on the cross, a sacrificial, reconciling, enemy love.

SLIDE 2

Q - What is your favorite story about Jesus or teaching from Jesus that stirs up your love for Him?

The purpose of this question is to get your group members thinking about what Jesus has done and said that draw them to love Him. As a leader, think about one or two examples of a story or teaching of Jesus that has moved you. Then open up the question to the group.

Here are some examples:

Jesus’ Miracles:

Jesus turns water into wine (John 2:1-11)

Jesus heals people (John 4:46-54, 5:1-18)

Jesus feeds the 5,000 (John 6:5-14)

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-45)

Jesus’ Teachings on Love:

“Love the Lord your God ... love your neighbour as yourself.” Matthew 22:37-39

“A new command I give you, love one another; Just as I have loved you ...” John 13:34

Jesus washing the disciples’ feet (John 13:1-15)

Jesus promises He is going to prepare a place for us and will return for us. (John 14:1-4)

Jesus blesses the children (Mark 10:13-16)

Jesus speaks to the woman at the well (John 4:4-42)

SLIDE 3

Q - Some have said that our relationship with Jesus has four dimensions: Jesus is our teacher, Saviour, Lord and friend. While we hopefully see Jesus as all four, we often have one that is our dominant lens. Discuss with your group which one you tend to see Jesus as the most.

Part of how we see Jesus is based on our past experiences. If you've been raised in a church that has focused a lot of teaching on Jesus as Lord, for example, your focus may be primarily there as well. Part of how we see Jesus may be based on our temperament. If you have a very relational wiring, you may see Jesus primarily as friend. It's OK to see Jesus more in one way than in the others, but there are important aspects in each of these areas that help us know and love Jesus more.

SLIDE 4

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:16-18:

Q - Where do you feel moved to participate in reflecting this kind of sacrificial love into the world?

Creekside is engaging in some opportunities to show others God's love. We have been contacting everyone (those not in a LifeGroup or serving on a Creekside team) on our database to check in on how they are doing and how we can pray for them during the COVID-19 lockdown. We have donated financially to some local food agencies. We are going to have a food drive to collect much needed food resources for our local food bank. These are a few of the ways Creeksiders can engage with us.

SLIDE 5

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." 1 John 4:10

Q – How does this truth stir you to love God?

God made the first move. When we were least deserving, when we had our backs turned to Him and were going our own way, God chose to reach out and love us. He has paid the greatest price, the sacrifice of His Son, so we could experience His love forever. That's amazing love!

SLIDE 6

MISSIONS PRAYER REQUESTS

Creekside Supports the **N Family** who serve in Southeast Asia in aviation and ethnomusicology. After a hasty exit from where they were serving, they have settled for the time being in The Netherlands and are grateful for God's hand of protection and provision thus far.

Here are some requests for prayer:

1. Erin is limited to spending 90 days in Europe. Pray that she will be granted an extension and that we would be able to change our tickets to an earlier time so we can make it to Canada mid-July.
2. Pray for wisdom how to connect with supporters in this time of social distancing and lockdown.
3. Please pray for our transition to Canada. We do have a place to live, we are just needing to figure out our transportation.
4. Pray that we would use our time wisely.